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Forestry Canada - Maritimes Region

TECHNICAL NOTE

HIGHLIGHTS OF FOREST PEST CONDITIONS IN THE MARITIMES AT THE END OF JULY 1991

Forest pest conditions in the Maritimes, as they appeared at the end of July 1991, are summarized here in our third report of the year.

The region has not received any appreciable amount of rainfall since our last report. The impact of this summer's dry spell on forest trees will be difficult to determine but signs of stress are already apparent; ridgetop-hardwoods in eastern Nova Scotia are becoming chlorotic, a condition usually not seen until August; premature yellowing of roadside white birch and wire birch is obvious at scattered locations in southwestern New Brunswick and is particularly noticeable in western Nova Scotia; foliage browning is severe and moderate from leaf-scorching at woodlot edges on red maple, sugar maple, beech, white birch, and trembling aspen exposed to prevailing winds in Queens and Prince counties, Prince Edward Island.

Spruce budworm aerial surveys are now complete in all three provinces. There is no visible defoliation in Nova Scotia. In Prince Edward Island, most of the defoliation is confined to southern Kings and southeastern Queens counties. Most of the damage is on white spruce. Defoliation is very patchy and averages in the light category. New Brunswick information is not yet available.

Hemlock looper aerial surveys have begun in New Brunswick. To date, areas of severe defoliation of mature and immature balsam fir and white birch were found mostly at the north and south ends of Deer Island. Ground surveys have found visible defoliation on the south slope of Mount Carleton and at Mount Johnson, Northumberland County.

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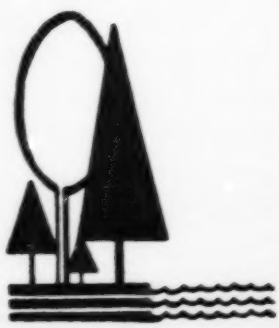

Forestry Canada - Maritimes Region
P.O. Box 4000, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5P7
P.O. Box 667, Truro, N.S. B2N 5E5
P.O. Box 190, Charlottetown, P.E.I. C1A 7K2

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Gypsy moth daily observation traps have been catching suspected "blow-ins". Trap observers from St. Andrews, Fredericton, and Sussex, New Brunswick and Wellington, Prince Edward Island have called in reporting catches. All moths were caught around the weekend of July 20th. No reports of visible defoliation have come in from anywhere in the region.

Red flagging of jack pine has been observed during aerial and ground surveys throughout eastern New Brunswick. Red flags may be tree tops, branches or twigs. No single cause has been determined responsible but ground checks have revealed that damage has been caused by a number of agents such as snow and ice, porcupines, globose gall rust, and squirrels. The cause of some of the flagging, as yet, remains unknown.

Flooding by beavers has killed a number of trees because of altered water tables. Trees in and at the edges of these new ponds, deprived of oxygen at their roots, turn bright red. Tree damage by flooding was strikingly visible during aerial surveys in several areas in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Low pelt prices in recent years has made beaver pelts less attractive to trappers and probably account for the increased beaver population and subsequent frequency of flooding.

Other forest pests of note: **alder flea beetle,** very common throughout most of the region at all levels of damage; **uglynest caterpillar**, found in all three provinces with the most notable report from Pictou County, Nova Scotia, where hundreds of nests were found on roadside cherry bushes; **poplar serpentine leafminer,** widespread across northern New Brunswick at all levels of damage; **satin moth**, found across Prince Edward Island causing severe and moderate defoliation on silver poplar and noticeably more common in Colchester, Richmond, and Inverness counties, Nova Scotia; **white pine weevil**, damage on white pine was higher this year than previously in Northumberland and Kent counties, New Brunswick; **elm leafminer**, moderate and severe on elm at locations in Prince and Queens counties, Prince Edward Island; **leaf blister**, moderate and severe damage on yellow birch on Campobello Island, Charlotte County, New Brunswick; **whitespotted sawyer beetle**, girdled balsam fir shoots causing very noticeable red flagging on Grand Manan and Campobello Islands, Charlotte County, New Brunswick; **spearmarked black moth**, damage on white birch is beginning to show up in Restigouche, Victoria, Carleton, and Northumberland counties, New Brunswick.

July 31, 1991

J. Edward Hurley and L.P. Magasi
Forest Insect and Disease Survey

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